

Applicant: Falone et al.
Application No.: 10/067,594

REMARKS

Claims 32-51 are currently pending in this application. By the foregoing amendment claims 1-31 have been cancelled; and new claims 32-51 have been added. Support for portions of claims 32-51 are set forth below.

Claim 32 recite that the inner layer elastomeric vibration absorbing material is free of voids therein. This amendment is supported by originally filed Figure 2 that shows a cross-sectional view of the grip layers that are free of voids. Claim 32 also recites that an elastomeric layer includes a fiberglass material therein. This recitation is supported by the originally filed specification, page 27, lines 15 and 16. which recites "Other force dissipating material such as fiberglass may also be used." The recitation of three layers is supported by the originally filed specification, page 25. The recited peripheral knob covering portion is supported by originally filed Figure 3 and by the originally filed specification, page 22.

New claim 33 is supported by originally filed figure 3 and the originally filed specification, page 22. New claim 34 is supported by originally filed Figures 3 and 4. New claim 35 is supported by originally filed Figure 2. New claim 37 is supported by originally filed Figure 5.

Claims 38-40 are supported by originally filed claims 5 and 8 and by the originally filed specification, page 29, lines 14-25.

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New claim 43 and 44 are supported by originally filed Figure 15. New claim 45 is supported by originally filed Figure 14. New claim 46 is supported by originally filed Figure 16.

Those claims not specifically mentioned above are supported by the originally filed specification and drawings. No new matter is added to the application by this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-31 have been rejected. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-31 are moot due to cancellation of claims 1-31. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Lau et al. fail to disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Applicant's claims. Lau et al. are directed to a shock absorbing material. Referring to Figure 2, Lau et al. preferably have three layers of material. However, as detailed below, those layers are structurally and significantly different from those claimed by Applicants. Lau et al. have a buffed upper surface layer 19 to provide a slip-resisting grip. The center layer 12 is formed of a textile base (e.g., a woven or non-woven fabric) embedded in a closed poromeric material, e.g., polyether or polyester urethane. Specification, column 1, lines 65-68. A poromeric material is "*any of several tough, porous leather substitutes*" which is completely different from Applicants' claimed elastomeric layer. Accordingly, Lau et al. fail to disclose Applicants' claimed central

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elastomeric layer. Additionally, both of Lau et al.'s center layer 12 and inner layer 16 include large voids or holes therein. The claimed lack of voids in one of Applicants' layers is significant as Applicants' grip is not porous. Lau et al. also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, the use of fiberglass material fibers. Applicants' claimed fiberglass material results in significant improvement in vibration dampening and absorbing.

The remaining references do not remedy the above noted deficiencies.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 32-51 are patentable over the outstanding rejections. Each of the claims requires three elastomer layers, one of which includes fiberglass material to dissipate force. Additionally, the claims require that at least one of the elastomer layers be substantially free of voids.

INVITATION

If any additional matters need to be addressed to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 32-51, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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